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NINTH PLENUM SPEECH OF PIOTR JAROSZEWICZ
ON PROBLEMS FACING HEAVY INDUSTRY IN POLAND

Nowe Drogi

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[The following report of Piotr Jaroszewicz, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers, was given at the Ninth Plenum of the KC PZPR (Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party), held in Warsaw on 29-30 October 1953.

The report was given at the plenum as an amplification of the featured report of Premier Boleslaw Bierut, "Task of Party in Struggle to Raise Standard of Living of Workers in Current Phase of Building Socialism." An English-language translation of Bierut's report is available in the PAP (Polish Press Agency) release of 6 November 1953, pages 1-44.]

The theme and discussions of the present plenum are an expression of the continuous interest shown by the party in development of the country, in improvement of the welfare of the citizens, and in creation of conditions for the broader and fuller operation of the basic economic law of socialism.

Full realization of the guiding principles of the present plenum will result in an improvement in living conditions and will raise the material and cultural level of the working masses. This noble task will be warmly received by every citizen, and will mobilize the entire nation to more productive and more dedicated work.

I would like to call the attention of my comrades to some of the economic tasks facing heavy industry for 1954-1955, and to some of the deficiencies which exist.

Among other things, for 1954 and 1955, within the framework of the tasks of the Six-Year Plan, more will be expected from heavy industry in the production of machinery, agricultural equipment, artificial fertilizers, and goods for general use. Heavy industry must also supply machinery and raw materials to industries producing consumer goods.

Heavy industry is continually improving its plan fulfillment. In 1953 there was such an improvement in metallurgy that we successfully fulfilled the state plan for the first three quarters and have the conditions for the fulfillment of the plan for the current year. The machine industry has fulfilled both its production plan and its assortment plan. The year 1953 is undoubtedly important for technical and production successes in the machine industry. In spite of a number of great difficulties, the Ministry of the Chemical Industry has increased production and mastered the production of a number of both new products and products which are difficult to manufacture. The Ministry of Power has improved the operation of the power plants and the power system. It now supplies more electric power to the industrial centers and to the population.

Despite its attainments, heavy industry has important deficiencies and weak spots. Despite the improvements in the fulfillment of the over-all plan, the plans for the required variety of products have not been completely fulfilled. A lack of balance exists in the development of various production sectors. The theses indicate all these areas in heavy industry on which we should concentrate.

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The production of agricultural machinery is behind in its technical, organizational, and staff setup within the Ministry of the Engineering Industry. Up to the present time this ministry has not been devoting enough attention to the production of agricultural machinery. The Ministry of Metallurgy has been lax in supplying the agricultural machine industry. This industry has not been allotted sufficient raw materials, quality pig iron, coke, and the necessary wood products. The agricultural machine industry is not fulfilling its production plan by type of product, and has had particular difficulty in mastering new production. The wojewodztwo committees, concentrating on key industries, have paid little attention to the agricultural machine plants.

The task of increasing the production of agricultural machines in 1954-1955, and of mastering the production of larger number of new machines and equipment not produced heretofore, requires that the Ministry of Engineering Industry mobilize and give constant aid to the plants of this industry. To realize this task it is necessary to work out a program immediately to develop production of agricultural machines for 1954-1955; to continue improving the organizational, technical, and staff levels of all plants producing agricultural machines; to activate additional capacity for the production of agricultural machines in plants of the ministry not yet producing these machines; to expand cooperation between plants producing agricultural machines and the rest of the plants in the ministry; and finally, to assure a full supply of raw materials and intermediate products to the industry making agricultural machines.

Production of artificial fertilizers is one of the weak spots in the Ministry of the Chemical Industry. During the first three quarters of 1953 the ministry has not fulfilled its plan by about 5,000 tons of synthetic ammonia, about 6,000 tons of sulfuric acid, and 7,000 tons of calcium carbide. As a result, during the first three quarters of 1953, this ministry was short 7,500 tons in delivering calcium cyanamide needed by agriculture. The new synthetic ammonia combine in Kedzierzyn will start operating late because the work of the Ministry of Industrial Construction was not fulfilled on time and deliveries by the Ministry of the Engineering Industry and Ministry of Metallurgy were late. The Synthetic Ammonia Plant (Zaklad Syntezy amoniaku) in Tarnobrzeg finds itself in difficult straits. The ministry has not supplied the plant with proper management and technical support. The Ministry of Industrial Construction was a half year late in completing its work. The wojewodztwo committee in Krakow for a long time was unable to promote a suitable candidate for secretary of the PZP (Polska Organizacja Partyjna, Primary Party Organization) in Tarnobrzeg. Solving the matter provisionally has not helped the party organization. Even today the extent of party and political work in these plants is not satisfactory.

An increase of the deliveries of artificial fertilizers for agriculture in 1954-1955 is a difficult task, but attainable. The Ministry of the Chemical Industry should strengthen the chemical synthesis plants and send them its best personnel. The ministry should expand its daily assistance and control over the chemical synthesis and artificial fertilizer industry.

The Ministry of Industrial Construction should unconditionally fulfill its investment plan in the chemical industry. The Ministry of Metallurgy and the Ministry of Engineering Industry should give considerably more help to the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, and control the deliveries of machines and equipment. The wojewodztwo committees should spend more time on plants producing artificial fertilizers, so that the level of party-political and organizational work in these plants will improve considerably.

During 1950-1953 the engineering industry mastered the production of new and complicated machines never before produced in Poland and many plants limited the production of goods for everyday use. However, the production of consumer goods and production of by-products was limited in the engineering industry to a degree which cannot be explained by objective necessity. It is necessary to emphasize

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that now the Ministry of Engineering Industry, the central administrations, the plants, and particularly the plant crews, fully realize the tasks facing them in connection with increased production of goods of everyday use. To make possible this production increase the Ministry should activate the huge reserves of the engineering industry and the defense industry. If the ministry interests itself daily in developing the production of goods for everyday use, if it supports initiative at the lower echelons, and if it receives the assistance of the wojewodztwo committees, there will be an improvement in the market supply of goods for general use.

The Ministry of Power has not shown an understanding of the needs of the consumers. In 1952 there were some instances of serious power cutoffs due to poor operation. At present the Ministry of Power, after improving its operations, found the necessary resources of power to satisfy the needs of the population during the evening and morning hours.

The Ministry of Metallurgy is the main producer of such goods as buckets, nails, chains, wire, shovels, pitch forks, axes, enameled containers, household tools, scythes, sickles, etc. The ministry, however, does not always fulfill the assortment production plan for metal products for the needs of the market, and particularly for the villages. During 8 months of 1953 the production plan for metal buckets was fulfilled 86 percent, pitch forks 82 percent, chains 80 percent, and construction nails 95 percent. At the same time the quality of metal products deteriorated. The metal products industry is inadequately supplied with raw materials by the metallurgical industry. The condition of technical equipment in the metal products industry is bad.

Has the Ministry of Metallurgy met a difficulty (the production of metal products) it is unable to surmount? Certainly not! The Ministry of Metallurgy can and should eliminate all inertia in this field, since without doing this it will not be possible to fulfill the tasks assigned to this industry for 1954-1955.

The work of the artificial fiber industry under the Ministry of the Chemical Industry arouses considerable uneasiness. The Ministry of the Chemical Industry fulfilled the plan for deliveries of artificial fiber to the textile industry 97 percent for the first quarter and 93 percent for the second quarter. The quality of fiber has worsened considerably. This creates a number of difficulties in the textile industry.

The reason for nonfulfillment of the plan is the poor quality of raw materials produced by the plants under the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the low technical level of the working crews, disregard for technical discipline, poor technical supervision, and poor organization of production in the plants. These are the main faults of the artificial fiber industry which the ministry should eliminate as soon as possible.

A superficial inspection of some of the areas of heavy industry, important in the development of agriculture and market supply, discloses a number of important deficiencies which should be eliminated as soon as possible by the proper ministries. Party echelons must also be alerted to offer aid to these plants.

Many of the difficulties in heavy industry are caused by deficiencies in the administration of the industry. Very often the ministries ignore the central administrations and operate over the heads of the central administrations. The directors of some of the plants, with the tacit consent of the ministries, break away from the authority of the central administrations.

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Improper use of the central administrations has resulted in an inordinate expansion of the departments in the ministries, and has encumbered them with work which should be performed by the central administration.

The central administrations should perform their proper functions, and the activities of the departments of the ministries should be regulated in relation to them. The central administrations should be strengthened, and should operate independently. Their authority in relation to the plants and departments of the ministries should be strengthened.

The work organization in the central administrations is not perfect. The central administrations spend an unnecessary portion of their time on paper work. Such paper work leads to an unnecessary increase in workers in the central administration and takes them away from the problems of technology and production. The time has come to free the administration of the industry from superfluous paper work, to simplify reports, to cut down on the unnecessary correspondence, and specify the normal conditions for administrative work. This will result in better administration, will lead to a considerable reduction in the staff of the central administrations, and will lead to the transfer of workers directly to the production plants.

Through the dedicated efforts of workers, engineers, and technicians, and through the assistance given by the Soviet Union, heavy industry has quickly developed. In many areas it is a completely modern industry. Many of the plants employ excellent technology; we are mechanizing production processes; and we are introducing automatic processes. The degree to which these technical processes are mastered by our workers, technicians, and engineers will determine whether we will be able to completely utilize the technical processes which we have and attain further technical progress in all the fields of production. The attitude toward technology will determine the further development of our industry.

The technical level of the production plants and the crews has improved each year. Numerous party and technical conferences point out the fact that our workers, technicians, and engineers have made enormous progress in mastering technology.

It must be stated with considerable uneasiness that the ministries continuously underemphasize technical progress. The plans for technical progress are not completely fulfilled. The ministries do not maintain an interest in the development of technology in the plants. Numerous industrial institutions do not fulfill their role as vanguards of technical progress in production. The ministries do not show enough interest in technical publications in their own fields.

To improve management of heavy industry it is necessary to bring the ministries closer to matters of technology and technological discipline, and to eliminate the important deficiencies in this sphere from the work of the ministries. Settlement of the problems of the management in industry and improvement in the technical appreciation of management is necessary to fulfill the production tasks for heavy industry in 1954-1955.

In our industry we have many good people faithful to the party. This is expressed in the continuous development taking place in work competition, rationalization, and improvement. This is also expressed by the interest in production and in vigilance against the machinations of the class enemy.

A large step forward was made by the increased conscientiousness of the working masses and by the changed attitude of the workers and white-collar employees toward work. There has been an increased growth of socialist relations in our industry, a growing trust in the administration, and an increased interest

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in the worker. Working conditions have improved considerably, but we still have considerable deficiencies in this field. Not all are concerned with industrial safety. Often the directors of industry are concerned with production but not with the individual's needs, anxieties, and troubles. Tens of thousands of people live in workers' hotels, not always under good conditions. At times people are dissatisfied with the poor construction of the new workers' settlements. The petty grievances that make living difficult for many families are not attended to within a reasonable period of time. The following is an example of how the needs of the individual are not correctly handled. For the past 2 years the Ministry for the Construction of Cities and Settlements has not been able to repair the numerous building defects at the Mielec housing settlement.

We must prod the management, factory councils, and the party organizations to maintain a constant interest in the existing problem. This is a great opportunity for the factory councils whose activities in this field have been unsatisfactory in many of the plants.

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